

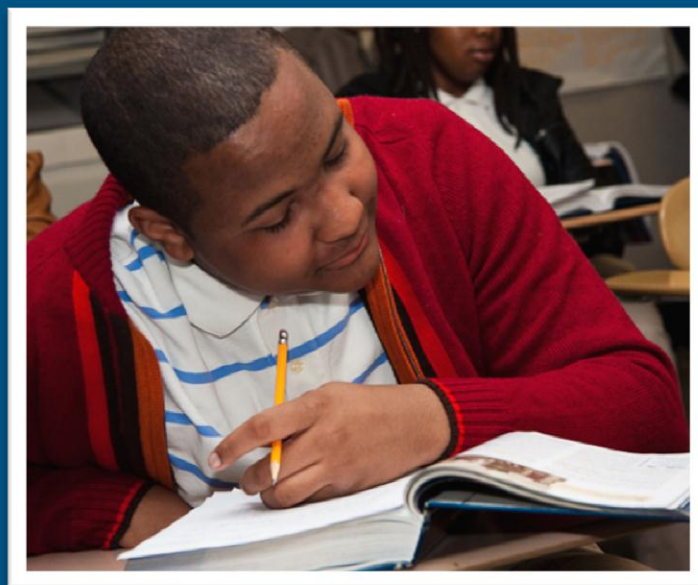


DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief Academic Officer

District of Columbia Public Schools GUIDE TO HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

2012–2013



Dear Students and Families,

It is my pleasure to introduce the second annual *Guide to High School Options* for the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). The *Guide to High School Options* contains information that will help our students plan an engaging and academically enriching high school experience.

Our vision is that DCPS will prepare students to succeed in college, careers and life. We are committed to helping all children, regardless of background or circumstance, achieve at the highest levels. At every school, without exception, DCPS will offer engaging instruction and school environments that are safe, clean, and conducive to learning.

Over the past few years, we have been hard at work to improve our schools. The progress we are making in DCPS is a direct result of the commitment of the staff, parents, and community partners to provide a high-quality education to all of our students. Some highlights include:

- The 2011 CAS results demonstrate continued growth at the secondary level. Since 2007, reading proficiency increased by 14.4 percentage points, and mathematics proficiency rates increased by 19.3 percentage points.
- Beginning in November 2011, we have streamlined the high school application process for specialized schools into one online application, the *DCPS High School Online Application*.
- Online career and academic planning is available to every student through the Individual Graduation Portfolio.
- Our high school programs offer Career & Technical Education courses in over 30 career pathways with direct connections to colleges, universities and the workforce.
- DCPS high schools are offering an expanded number of Advanced Placement courses, especially in the academic areas of: English, math, social studies and science.
- Three of our high schools placed in the top 50 of the *Washington Post's* 2011 DC Area Schools Challenge Index and one of our high schools was a 2010 National Blue Ribbon School.

Please use the High School Catalog to ensure our students identify and actively engage in an academic program that meets their individual needs and interests while simultaneously equipping them with the skills, knowledge, motivation, and ability to apply their learning in the real world.

I encourage every student to take advantage of the exciting and challenging opportunities available in our high schools. It is our commitment to provide each student, as a future graduate of DCPS, with an education that will lead to success in college, careers and life. Best wishes on your journey.

Sincerely,



Kaya Henderson
Chancellor, District of Columbia Public Schools

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How to Enroll in High School

Students who reside in the District of Columbia are guaranteed assignment to their neighborhood school and may also have the right to attend another school, called a destination school. Neighborhood and destination schools together are DCPS' **comprehensive high schools**.

A **neighborhood school** is a school assigned to a student based on his/her address. (Please note that students with special needs or who are English Language Learners may be assigned to a school other than their neighborhood school in order to better serve their needs). Students can find their neighborhood school by entering their address at this website: <http://dcatlas.dcgis.dc.gov/schools/>.

A **destination school** is a school into which a student's current DCPS school feeds. Students have the right to attend destination schools even if they are different from their neighborhood schools. Students can find their destination school options at this website: <http://www.21csf.org/dcschoolfeeder/>.

Students are automatically enrolled in their neighborhood or destination school at the end of 8th grade if they do not choose a different option.

The **Out-of-Boundary Lottery** allows parents to apply for a different DCPS school than their child's assigned school(s). The lottery application period takes place annually between January 30 and February 27, for the following school year. However, if a school does not fill all of its available seats through the lottery, out-of-boundary students may still enroll at the school on a first-come first-served basis. Please contact (202) 478-5738 if you have questions about the Out-of-Boundary Lottery.

Note that the Out-of-Boundary Lottery is only for students seeking to enroll at a different comprehensive school. Students interested in applying for admission to a citywide specialized school must use the new DCPS High School Online Application described on page 6.

For students who have dropped out of school, are at-risk of dropping out, are new to the District of Columbia or are transitioning from juvenile correctional agencies, the **Student Placement Team** provides educational options. Student Placement Specialists assist students with enrollment in District of Columbia secondary schools or gaining access to other educational programs, such as GED and public charter schools. For additional information or to schedule a placement meeting please call (202) 939-2004 or email student.placement@dc.gov.

Types of High School

In addition to the ten **comprehensive high schools**, DCPS offers other types of high school experiences that students should consider. To review school profiles, go to <http://profiles.dcps.dc.gov/>.

First, there are six **citywide specialized high schools** with specialized application requirements and processes.* Beginning on November 18, 2011, students interested in applying to any of these schools must use the DCPS High School Online Application described in more detail on page 6.

Second, students can consider attending Luke C. Moore High School, for young people ages 16–20 who dropped out of high school or had difficulties in traditional school settings, and the Washington Metropolitan High School, for young people ages 14–20 that are looking for a non-traditional high school experience. Washington Metropolitan High School will use the DCPS High School Online Application. For Luke C. Moore, students may contact the Student Placement Office by calling (202) 939-2004 or emailing student.placement@dc.gov.



Third, there are three **Schools to Aid Youth (STAY) schools** in DCPS: Ballou STAY, Spingarn STAY, and Roosevelt STAY. The STAY programs offer flexible school days beginning at 11:00 a.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m. Students 17 years of age and older are provided a variety of academic options to complete high school, including a traditional high school diploma, GED and External Diploma Program (EDP).

Finally, DCPS is committed to providing free, appropriate educational opportunities for all students with disabilities, ages 3 through 21 years old. Services are provided in the most appropriate, least restrictive environment (LRE), as outlined in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). A student with disabilities whose IEP Team determines that the student's LRE is outside of general education has the option to attend two **specialized public high schools**: Mamie D. Lee School (PK–12) or Sharpe Health School (PK–12). For more information, please contact the Office of Special Education at 202-442-4800.

* Note: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states that “no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States, shall solely by reason of her or his disability be excluded from the participation in, be denied of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program.” Therefore, in accordance with the law, DCPS ensures that all students with disabilities interested in attending one of the citywide specialized high schools are afforded the opportunity to apply to and attend these school programs with the appropriate supplementary aides and services to be successful. For more information about students with disabilities enrolling in the citywide selective high school programs, please contact the Office of Special Education at 202-442-4800.

DCPS High School Online Application

An application for admission is required for the following schools:

- Benjamin Banneker Academic High School
- Columbia Heights Education Campus
- Ellington School of the Arts
- McKinley Technology High School
- Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School (Phelps ACE)
- School Without Walls
- Washington Metropolitan High School

In prior years, each school had its own application and deadlines for admission. This year, families can apply to any specialized school with ONE application, the DCPS High School Online Application. The application is only available online, at <http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/Learn+About+Schools/Programs+by+Grade+Level/Grades+9-12/DCPS+High+School+Online+Application>.

Some of the schools using the online application require supplementary information that is specific to a particular school, such as essays, questionnaires, interviews, or auditions. Students will be able to submit many of these supplementary materials online through the online application; however, any interviews and auditions will be scheduled by and held at individual schools. The chart below lists the supplementary information required by each school.

High School	Essays	Recommendations	Community Service	Interview	Audition	Assessment
Benjamin Banneker Academic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Columbia Heights Education Campus		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ellington School of the Arts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
McKinley Technology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Phelps ACE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
School Without Walls				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Washington Metropolitan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

The application will be available beginning on **November 18, 2011**. After this date, students may begin submitting their information, and teachers will be able to submit recommendations (if required). All applications are due by **January 6, 2012**. Ellington School of the Arts will have a priority deadline of December 15, 2011; however, they will accept applications through January 6, 2012.

Admissions decisions will be available by March 26, 2012. Submitting an application does not guarantee admission. For more information, please contact the Critical Response Team at (202) 478-5738.

Individual Graduation Portfolio

The District of Columbia Public Schools provides an academic, college, and career planning tool for all students, called the Individual Graduation Portfolio (IGP).

The IGP provides students with a road map to the future and keeps a record of the past. Staying on course will empower students to reach their destination – *graduation* – with all the courses, skills, and experiences needed to make informed decisions about education and career. *Guideways* lead students through activities that are appropriate for each grade level.

Middle grades students can use the IGP to help them begin mapping out their interests and to:

- Explore careers, majors, volunteering and recreational opportunities with the *Choices Explorer*
- Get ready for high school with course planning
- Track progress toward graduation
- Set goals, reflect in an online *Journal* and build a portfolio
- Discover interests and skills with Career & Major Finder Assessments
- Discover how the student learns best with the *Learning Styles Inventory*



High school students can continue to use the IGP to:

- Explore careers, plan high school courses, learn about majors and choose a college with the *Choices Planner*
- Set goals, build resumes and practice interview skills
- Learn about themselves with assessments including the *Interest Profiler & Cluster Finder*
- Check out up-to-date college scholarship information
- Learn their personality type in *Do What You Are*
- Match their strengths to potential careers with the *Ability Profiler*
- Use free online PSAT and SAT prep course with *TestGear*

If you have not already done so, you can access your IGP at www.dcps.bridges.com. The portfolio name is DCPS followed by your student ID number (for example, DCPS12345678). The default password is DCPS, but students can change their password after they log in for the first time. For more information, visit the Individual Graduation Portfolio website or contact your school counselor.

<http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/College+and+Careers/Individual+Graduation+Portfolio>

DCPS College Readiness Initiative

The College Readiness Initiative team supports a district-wide, college-going culture by providing the resources families need to take those next steps after high school graduation. It is never too early to start thinking about where your child will apply, how to pay for college, or what courses your child will need to take in high school to be considered for college admission. The College Readiness Initiative is happy to provide:

- resources on college planning, choosing a college and applying for college;
- scholarship opportunities and financial aid information; and
- connections to local college fairs.



Major Initiatives:

All 9th, 10th and 11th graders will take the PSAT at every DCPS high school free of charge. The PSAT is a college preparatory test of critical reading, math and writing skills. The PSAT is an important first step in preparing for college and the college application process. See www.collegeboard.com.

Additionally, the College Readiness Initiative supports students through Advanced Placement (AP) course opportunities and dual-enrollment to help students prepare for college-level work and expectations. AP courses may transfer as college credit and improve student's college admissions chances, as well as meet DCPS graduation requirements.

The Office of the State Superintendent offers the DC OneApp, the District's online application for funding that District residents use to apply for the District of Columbia's state level higher education grant programs: DCTAG, DCLEAP and DC Adoption. For more information, see osse.dc.gov.

The College Readiness Initiative is connecting DCPS potential graduates to scholarship opportunities to make college more affordable. For more information, see www.scholarshipdc.org.

College is accessible to and affordable for all DCPS students.

Career and Technical Education

The goal of DCPS Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs is to provide students with a rigorous set of electives that have a direct link to postsecondary education and careers.

CTE offers 30 programs of study in 11 career clusters in 18 schools.

- CTE offers programs of study that correspond to a variety of career themes. Each program of study consists of a sequence of courses totaling four credits.
- In SY 2011–2012, 18 DCPS high schools are implementing 30 programs of study offered in 11 career clusters, as shown on page 10.

CTE is aligned to postsecondary coursework and industry-recognized technical skills assessments.

- DCPS is aligning CTE programs to postsecondary coursework by creating articulation agreements and/or direct linkages to postsecondary institutions for every program of study.
- DCPS currently offers industry-recognized technical skills assessments in 20 out of 30 programs. Students who pass the technical skills assessment are at an advantage in the job market.

CTE instructors receive professional development, usually from national career organizations.

- Instructors receive professional development from Project Lead the Way, the National Business Education Association and the National Center for Construction Education & Research.
- Every career cluster has an industry advisory committee (IAC) consisting of industry/post-secondary partners. IACs provide advice on industry trends and skills training, review and make recommendations on curriculum, provide student internship opportunities and hire CTE graduates.

National Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) provide enriched co-curricular activities.

- Every career cluster is connected to a CTSO, which engages students in leadership and employment skills, service learning, national skills competitions and opportunities to attend national CTSO conferences to connect with other students nationwide.

New CTE programs include Renewable Energy, Electro-Mechanical Technology, Biomedical Sciences, Nursing, Sports Medicine, Communications Technology and Law, Justice & Security.

For a complete listing of available programs at each high school location, please see page 10. For more information about CTE programs, please see the *SUCCEED DC Student's Guide to Career and Technical Education Programs* available at:

<http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/College+and+Careers/College+and+Career+Planning/Career+and+Technical+Education>.

Career & Technical Education – Program Locations 2011–12

Career Cluster	Program of Study	Anacostia	Ballou	Ballou STAY	Cardozo	CHEC	Coolidge	Dunbar	Eastern	Ellington	LCMA	McKinley	Phelps	Roosevelt	Roosevelt STAY	Spingarn	Spingarn STAY	Wilson	Woodson
Arts, Media & Communication	Visual & Performing Arts									X									
	Mass Media & Communications		X									X		X					
Biotechnology & Environmental Science	Biotechnology		X									X							
	Environmental Science																	X	
Business, Finance & Marketing	Finance							X								X		X	
	Business Administration						X	X			X			X	X				X
Construction & Design	Marketing										X			X				X	X
	Architecture & Design												X						
	Carpentry				X								X						
	Electrical				X								X						
	Heating, Ventilation, AC												X						
	Masonry												X						
	Plumbing				X								X						
	Welding & Sheet Metal												X						
Engineering	Engineering (PLTW)				X	X		X				X	X					X	
	Electro-Mechanical Technology				X														
	Aviation Maintenance Technology				X														
	Renewable Energy																		X
Health & Medical Sciences	Biomedical Sciences								X									X	
	Emergency Medical Services	X																	
	Nursing	X																	X
	Sports Medicine																		X
Hospitality & Tourism	Culinary Arts			X										X	X				
Human Services & Education	Early Childhood Education					X													
Information Technology	Interactive Media	X			X	X						X						X	
	Networking					X		X				X	X						X
	Communications Technology			X											X				
Law, Public Safety and Security	Law, Justice & Security	X																	
Transportation	Automotive Technology		X	X															
	Autobody Collision Repair																X		

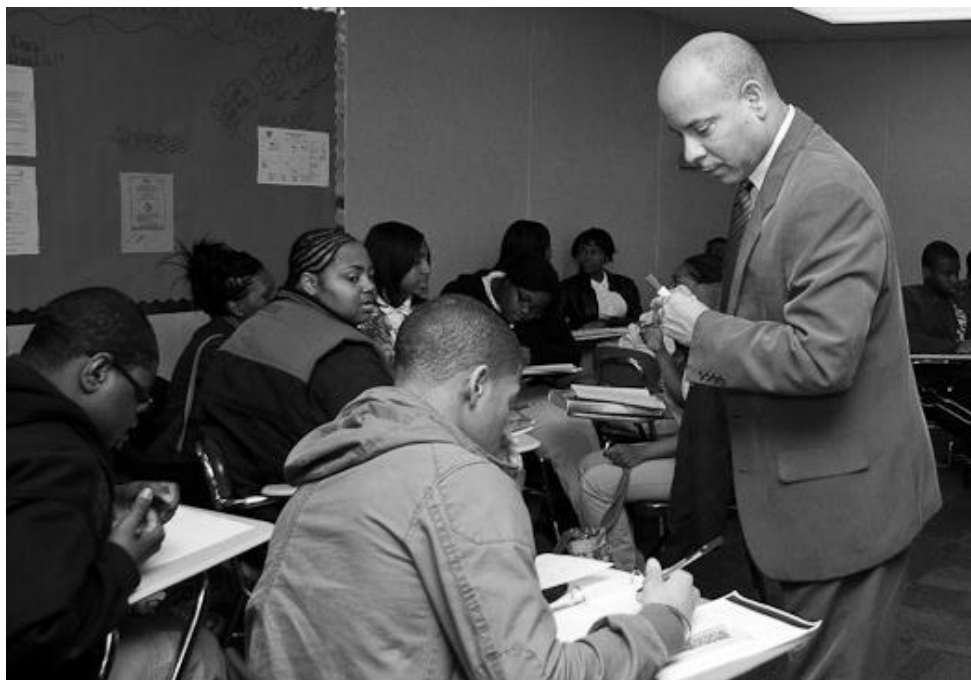
2011–2012 DCPS Advisory Program

The DCPS Advisory Program operates with a goal of building a college-going and career-oriented culture in secondary schools, leading to increased access and success for all students through a planned and systematic approach. Advisory programs are part of the infrastructure used to provide:

- the social-emotional support and knowledge that students need to become aware of the opportunities for postsecondary education;
- to prepare students to access these opportunities; and
- to ensure that students receive the high school and college readiness skills necessary for success.

Advisory programs provide safe, engaging and grade level appropriate learning environments in which students engage in self-discovery, career and college exploration and other college readiness activities. Advisories are staffed by school-based teachers who are trained to facilitate these learning experiences and function as caring adults for students. Students will explore themes such as community building, student success skills, self-awareness, career exploration and college readiness.

Advisory is a regularly scheduled, school-wide program that will be available at the following campuses in 2012–2013: Anacostia SHS, Ballou STAY, Dunbar SHS, Eastern SHS, School Without Walls and Washington Metropolitan High School.



Questions to Consider Asking a High School Administrator or Counselor

1. What is the school's mission or philosophy?
2. What are the big projects my child will be doing in your school this year? Throughout the year, how will I know if my child is meeting grade level expectations?
3. If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom? Can you give me examples?
4. Does the school have the appropriate resources to provide for my child's additional needs (Special Education, Language Support, After School Programs and Accessibility)?
5. What is this school's approach to student discipline and safety?
6. How does your school prepare students for college and/or careers?
7. What percentage of freshman who enrolled in 2007 graduated in four years?
8. What percentage of students attend college? What colleges did students attend last year?
9. How do you assist students in identifying and applying for postsecondary study, college, grants, scholarships and internships? What do you do to facilitate these opportunities?
10. Does your school have partnerships with organizations that assist students and provide enrichment opportunities?
11. Does the school have an internship program? What percentage of students participate? Which companies are involved? What type of work is involved?
12. Does the school offer the sports or other extracurricular activities my child is interested in?
13. Does the school have the Career & Technical Education program that my child is interested in?
14. Are there Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses available in my child's areas of interest/strength?
15. How often will my student be able to meet with school counselors to make sure he/she is on track for graduation?

